

Bonneville Power Administration
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Vandals cause power outage

OAKRIDGE, Ore. - Power line insulators damaged by gunfire 15 miles east of Lookout Point caused a two-hour outage in Oakridge and ignited a potentially dangerous fire at 4:30 p.m. July 30. The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$25,000 for tips resulting in arrests of the shooters.

The outage and fire began when line crews finished replacing poles three miles away and re-energized the Lookout Point - Hills Creek line. The broken insulators caused the line to flash over during the process of restoring electricity to the line. Sparks falling to the ground set fire to the dry vegetation.

"People who shoot at insulators should know how dangerous it is," said Kirsten Kler, a BPA security officer. "In this case, a town lost electricity and a fire started that could have been much worse."

Fire retardant dropped by aircraft held the fire to about 10 acres. Line personnel worked until midnight to restore power, at a cost of \$3000. The Hills Creek Powerhouse also lost generation temporarily. Information about the vandalism can be conveyed to the Oregon State Police or the Lane County Sheriff's Office, as well as the toll free number below.

Toll free hotline number is: 1 (800) 437-2744

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